

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INSPECTOR GENERAL PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 23, the Inspector General Protection Act, a straightforward, bipartisan bill to protect the role of our inspectors general. Since Congress passed the Inspector General Act of 1978, inspectors general have played a crucial role in our democracy.

These government watchdogs root out waste, fraud, mismanagement, and abuse at all levels of government—saving the American taxpayer billions of dollars annually and ensuring government programs benefit the People. One Government Accountability Office study concluded that the 73 Offices of Inspectors General saved taxpayers \$43.3 billion in 2009, marking roughly an \$18 return for every dollar invested in our nation's inspectors general. By making inspectors general independent from the agencies they oversee, Congress signaled the importance of nonpartisan oversight that defines their role today. Our legislation, the Inspector General Protection Act of 2021, ensures the independence and integrity of our nation's inspectors general by combating two threats to these offices.

First, H.R. 23 requires notification to Congress in advance of an inspector general being placed on paid or unpaid non-duty status, or incurring a change in status. This ensures Congress is aware of any potential attempts to improperly sideline an inspector general. Second, the bill requires the President to report to Congress if an inspector general has not been nominated within 210 days after a vacancy occurs for the position, including the reasons a nomination has not been made and a target date for doing so. This reasserts Congress' oversight role and allows Members to question—on an informed basis—the decision of any future administration to leave core offices vacant, which has historically been an all-too-common practice among presidents of both parties.

I would like to express my gratitude to several individuals for this legislation. First, to the late Elijah Cummings, the kind and generous former Chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, who worked tirelessly to ensure the United States Government worked for all people, including by doggedly rooting out waste and fraud. He first passed the Inspector General Protection Act through the Oversight and Reform Committee two years ago. Since then, the House has signaled its support for this legislation by passing the bill in numerous forms, including as part of the HEROES Act in May 2020.

Next, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Representative JODY HICE from Georgia, for joining me in co-leading this bipartisan, commonsense legislation. Congress-

man HICE has been a valuable partner on numerous oversight initiatives, including our recent Oversight.gov Authorization Act, which was signed into law as part of the omnibus package last week. I thank him and his staff in the personal office and on Committee for their continued partnership. Finally, my thanks to Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY for her tireless work to hold those in power accountable to the people—including by supporting our many initiatives to strengthen our inspectors general.

Chairwoman MALONEY is an invaluable leader in the fight for good government. I urge my colleagues to support this narrowly tailored yet crucial legislation to protect our nation's inspectors general, saving the taxpayer billions of dollars and ensuring the government works for the people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Chamber on January 5, 2021, to attend a funeral in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on Roll Call number 9.

HONORING BRENT GROOME

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary South Carolinian, Brent Groome.

Mr. Groome has served Horry Telephone Cooperative and the region's telecommunications industry over the last three decades. He currently serves as Chief Executive of Corporate Communications and Government Relations but will be retiring this month. Throughout his tenure, Brent has served as a strong advocate for telephone and broadband advancements in South Carolina.

Brent has certainly achieved many accomplishments over his career. He has demonstrated consistent engagement and a commitment to excellence while serving on numerous industry boards during his career in telecommunications. Brent's commitment to the community goes beyond his career. He has been a tireless ambassador for many local non-profit and philanthropic organizations.

Madam Speaker, I join his family and the people of Horry Telephone Cooperative in recognizing Brent Groome. We thank him for his service and commitment to our community.

REMEMBERING FURMAN STEWART BALDWIN

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, along with Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, I rise to recognize the life of World War II veteran, Furman Stewart Baldwin, who passed away on December 7, 2020 at his home, in Millbrae, California.

Furman was born on August 27, 1922, in Buffalo, New York. As a child he spent time on school, working in his father's professional photo studio, and doing gymnastics. It was through gymnastics that he met the love of his life, Margaret, who everybody called Peg or Peggy.

In 1943, Furman and Peggy married, and he was commissioned as a U.S. Navy officer and pilot. He was active in the Pacific theater.

Furman finished his bachelor's degree after the war and started working in television, at WBEN in Buffalo. While working in live television at WBEN, eventually becoming a producer/director, he also went back to school; he earned a master's degree at the University of Buffalo.

After 15 years at WBEN, Furman became head of the Audiovisual Branch of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He received several awards at West Point, including the Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson Award for excellence in television production, before retiring in 1986.

Following retirement, Furman and Peggy enjoyed traveling the world together. When she developed health problems, Furman always stayed with Peggy; they eventually moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to be closer to their children.

After Peggy passed away in 2010, Furman enjoyed time with his friends and working on his computer. He even made video shows, "Furman's Flicks," to entertain fellow residents at his assisted living home.

Furman demonstrated the best the "Great-est Generation" had to offer. He is also remembered for his commitment to his family, his love of life, his artistic stained glass work, and the famous photo he took in 1947, "Il Baccio."

Meaning "The Kiss," the photo shows a young boy kissing a young girl. Another young girl looks on, seemingly mad that the boy is not kissing her. The two-year-old boy in the picture was his son, Furman Stewart Baldwin, Jr.

Furman Baldwin, Jr., survives Furman, along with his other children, Claire Harrison, and Ronald, grandchildren Justine, Eric, and Alexandra, and great-grandchildren Melissa and Megan. Predeceasing him were his wife, son Frederick, and grandson Michael.

Our deepest condolences go out to Furman's friends and loved ones.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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